



U.S. Department of Justice

Southern District of Indiana

United States Attorney

10 West Market Street

(317) 226-6333

*Suite 2100
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-3048*

TDD (317) 226-5438

August 15, 2006

*FAX NUMBERS:
Criminal (317) 226-6125
Administration (317) 226-5176
Civil (317) 226-5027
FLU (317) 226-6133
OCDETF (317) 226-5953*

CONTACT PERSON:

SUSAN W. BROOKS

United States Attorney

(317) 226-6333

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**TWELVE INDICTED FOR
HEROIN TRAFFICKING AND DISTRIBUTION
AS PART OF "OPERATION BLACK GOLD RUSH"**

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, today announced the unsealing of an indictment of 12 defendants charged with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute more than one kilogram of heroin. The indictment resulted from a seven-month investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Indianapolis Police Department in Indianapolis, Indiana, conducted in concert with investigations in Nashville, Tennessee, and other locations in the United States.

The investigating agencies, in conjunction with the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (BICE) and the US Marshals Service, arrested six of the defendants today in Indianapolis, Indiana. In conjunction with the Indianapolis arrests, two search warrants were executed resulting in the seizure of approximately one ounce of heroin. Three additional defendants were arrested today in Bloomington, Indiana. A tenth defendant was already in

custody in Nashville, Tennessee and the federal charge is being placed as a detainer upon him. All of the arrest warrants and search warrants served today were without incident.

The indictment alleges that JULIO RODRIGUEZ PEREZ, a/k/a “Rambo,” a/k/a “Raul Ramirez,” a/k/a “Cesar Geraldo Lopez Rosales,” is the leader and organizer of the heroin distribution organization operating primarily in Indianapolis and Bloomington, Indiana. According to the indictment, HECTOR ESCOBAR, a/k/a “Alex,” later on in the conspiracy, acted as the leader of the heroin operation in Indianapolis and Bloomington, Indiana. JOSE RUBIO, a/k/a “Miguel,” a/k/a “Gordo,” conducted the day-to-day distribution of heroin to other individuals for subsequent re-sale. Later on in the conspiracy RUBIO’S position was assumed by JORGE MADRIGAL, a/k/a “Gallo.” MARIA EMILIA DIAZ-GARCIA acted as a courier for the organization, bringing heroin to Indianapolis, Indiana, and transporting monies generated from the distribution of heroin. GLENN HARRIS, along with HECTOR ESCOBAR and JORGE MADRIGAL, obtained heroin for subsequent distribution. LEIF JOHNSON, FLOYD WARRINER, BENNIE PONDS, a/k/a “Black Hat,” TRAVIS SUTHERLIN, DEAN WILLIAMS, a/k/a “Dino,” and CHRISTOPHER METZ acted as heroin distributors for the organization.

Brooks said, “We are fortunate that the Southern District of Indiana has not been plagued by widespread heroin abuse. By working in collaboration, federal and local law enforcement can sharply curtail the supply of the drug to help protect our citizens from a prevalent heroin problem.”

According to Assistant United States Attorney Melanie C. Conour, who is prosecuting the case for the government, the defendants, if convicted, face a maximum possible prison sentence of life imprisonment and a maximum possible fine of \$4,000,000.00.

Those indicted and their current custody status are as follows:

HECTOR ESCOBAR, age 20, Antioch, Tennessee, incarcerated in Nashville, TN

JORGE MADRIGAL, age unknown, residence unknown, incarcerated in the Marion County Jail, Indianapolis, IN

JOSE RUBIO, age 20, address unknown, incarcerated in the Marion County Jail, Indianapolis, IN

GLENN HARRIS, age 50, Indianapolis, Indiana, incarcerated in the Marion County Jail, Indianapolis, IN

LEIF JOHNSON, age 21, Bloomington, Indiana, incarcerated in the Marion County Jail, Indianapolis, IN

FLOYD WARRINER, age 47, Beech Grove, Indiana, incarcerated in the Marion County Jail, Indianapolis, IN

BENNIE PONDS, age 56, Greenfield, Indiana, incarcerated in the Marion County Jail, Indianapolis, IN

TRAVIS SUTHERLIN, age 26, Bloomington, incarcerated in the Marion County Jail, Indianapolis, IN

DEAN WILLIAMS, age 51, Indianapolis, Indiana, incarcerated in the Marion County Jail, Indianapolis, IN

CHRISTOPHER METZ, age 26, Bloomington, Indiana, incarcerated in the Marion County Jail, Indianapolis, IN

JULIO RODRIGUEZ PEREZ., age 26, and MARIA EMILIA DIAZ-GARCIA age 27, both Mexican citizens, remain at large.

The indictment is an allegation only, and all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.

###

20060815.Perez.dt.wpd